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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/905,768	07/13/2001	Masakazu Murakami	990551DD/LH	4415
1933	7590	04/14/2004	EXAMINER	
FRISHAUF, HOLTZ, GOODMAN & CHICK, PC 767 THIRD AVENUE 25TH FLOOR NEW YORK, NY 10017-2023			NGUYEN, DONGHAI D	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			3729	

DATE MAILED: 04/14/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/905,768

Applicant(s)

MURAKAMI ET AL.

Examiner

Donghai D. Nguyen

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 05 February 2004.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 9-11 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 9-11 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. 09/393,745.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Response to Amendment

1. The proposed reply filed on February 05, 2004 has been entered.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

2. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

3. Claims 9-11 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Applicant's Admitted Prior Art (AAPA) in view of Yamada et al.

Regarding claim 9, AAPA discloses a method of assembling an electrical connection box, comprising: providing first (2) and second (1) casings that are capable of being combined with each other; providing an electrically insulating wiring board (3, Fig. 9) between the first and second casings, wherein the wiring board comprising a laying groove (3s) in a desired shape; laying a leader of a wire (W, page 2, line 21-22) in the given portion using an automatic laying apparatus; laying the wire (W, Fig. 11) in the laying groove of the wiring board using the automatic laying apparatus, such that the wire is extended from a head of the automatic laying apparatus to a cutter; operating the cutter to cut the wire (Spec. page 2, lines 19-28) such that a piece of the wire remaining between the head of the automatic laying apparatus and the cutter comprising a wire leader for subsequent laying operation (Spec. page 2, lines 28-30); and combining the first and second casings with the wiring board located there between (Fig. 9),

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except that AAPA does not disclose a holding portion which is wider the layer groove and the leader of wire including any bent/curled portion thereof is held in the holding portion of the wiring board.

However, Yamada et al teaches the holding portion (16) being wider than the wiring path (15) and the leader of wire (14b, 14c) including any bent portion thereof, is held in the holding portion of the wiring board as the wire is laid for positioning a cutter and preventing short-circuit of the leader of wire (Col. 5, lines 20-27). It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify AAPA has the holding portion being wider than the wiring path and the leader of wire is held in the holding portion as taught by Yamada et al. for positioning a cutter and preventing short-circuit of the leader of wire.

Claims 10-11 also met as set forth above. Yamada et al's Figs. 5 and 8 disclose the holding portion comprising a holding recess (16) that is wider than the laying groove and is extended on both sides of the laying groove in a width direction of the laying groove).

Response to Arguments

4. Applicant's arguments filed February 5, 2004 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

Applicant argues that Yamada et al disclose a method for creating a plurality of electronic circuits from a wire that is already laid and do not disclose, teach or suggest the feature of the method of the present invention. The Examiner disagrees since Yamada et al teach the holding portion (16) for securely holding the leader (14b is bent/curled and 14c is straight) of the wire regardless of curling or bending of the wire (Figs. 5, 8, and Col. 7, lines 33-36)

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Applicant argues that the teachings of Yamada et al and the AAPA are not properly combined. Since Applicant's arguments against the references individually, one cannot show nonobviousness by attacking references individually where the rejections are based on combinations of references. See *In re Keller*, 642 F.2d 413, 208 USPQ 871 (CCPA 1981); *In re Merck & Co.*, 800 F.2d 1091, 231 USPQ 375 (Fed. Cir. 1986).

Conclusion

5. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

6. **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL.** Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire **THREE MONTHS** from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within **TWO MONTHS** of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the **THREE-MONTH** shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than **SIX MONTHS** from the mailing date of this final action.

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7. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Donghai D. Nguyen whose telephone number is (703) 305-7859. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday (9:00-6:00).

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Peter D. Vo can be reached on (703) 308-1789. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

DN

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Peter Vo', is written over a horizontal line. The signature is stylized with a large loop at the end.

PETER VO
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 3700